

THE B O O K I E

O F
Merry Riddles*

Togethers

With proper Questions, and
witty Proverbs, to make pleasant
pastime.

No lesse usefull then be-
hoovefull for any young man or child,
to know if he be quick-wit-
ted, or no.

L I O ' N D O N ,

Printed for John Stafford, and W. G. and are to
be sold, at the George near Fleetbridg. 1660.

THE BOOK

OF
Many Riddles

With proper Questions, and
Witty Proverbs, to make the
passing

No less useful than
pleasant, for any man or child,
to know it be profitable with
it, or not.



LONDON,
Printed for John Sturges, and W. G. and others,
at the George near St. Dunstons Church.

Here beginneth the first Riddle.

Two legs sat upon three legs, and
had one leg in her hand, then in came
four legs and bare away one leg,
then up start two legs, and threw
three legs at four legs, and brought againe
one leg.

Solution.

That is a woman with two legs, sat on a
stool with three legs and had a leg of mutton
in her hand, then came a dog that hath four
legs, and bare away the leg of mutton, then
up start the woman and threw the stool with
three legs, at the dog with four legs, and
brought againe the leg of mutton.

The second Riddle.

He went to the wood and caught it,
He ate him whole and caught it,
Because he could not find it,
Home with him he brought it.

Solution.

That is a thorn: For a man went to the
wood & caught a thorne in his foot, & then he

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late him down, and sought to have pulled it out, and because he could not find it out, he must needs bring it home.

The 3 Riddle.

What work is that the faster ye work, longer it is ere ye have done, and the slower ye work the sooner ye make an end.

Solution.

What is turning of a spit; for if ye turn fast, it will be long ere the meat be roasted, but if ye turn slowly, the sooner it is roasted.

The 4 Riddle.

What is that that shineth bright all day, and at night is raked up in its own dirt.

Solution.

What is the fire that burneth bright all the day, and at night is raked up in his ashes.

The 5 Riddle.

I have a tree of great honor,
Which tree beareth both fruit and flower,
Twelve branches this tree hath bare,
Fifty nests therein be made,
And every nest hath birds seven,
Thanked be the King of heaven,
And every bird hath a divers name,
How may all this together frame.

Solution.

The tree is the year, the twelve branches, be the

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the thol be months the fifty the necks, be the
fifty two weeks, the seven birds be the seven
dayes of the week, whereof every one hath a
dibers name.

The 6 Riddle.

What is that that is rough within, and red
without, and bittled like a bears snout: there
is never a Lady in this Land, but will be con-
tent to take it in her hand.

Solution.

It is an Eglantine berry, which is rough
within, and red without, and hath bittles on
the top.

The 7 Riddle.

What things, Queens, and their servants be
they that be burnt once a year, and be cut and
toyn as smal as flesh to pot.

Solution.

Those be the Kings, Queens, and Marlees
mong the cards, which be some byned, some
toyn and some cut.

The 8 Riddle.

What is that that hath his belly full of mans
meat, and his mouth full of dirt.

Solution.

It is an Open when it is full of heap, or pie
for that is mans meat, and the Opens mouth
is then closed with dirt.

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The 9 Riddle.

What is that that hath a beard of flesh,
mouth of horn, and his feet like a Griffo.

Solution.

That is a Cock, for his beard is flesh, his bill
horn, and his feet like a Griffo.

The 10 Riddle.

What is that, the more ye lap on, the faster it
waisteth.

Solution.

That is a whetstone, for the more ye whet
lets is the whetstone.

The 11 Riddle.

Of what faculty be they, that every night
turn the skins of dead beasts.

Solution.

Those be the Frisks, for ever night that
tens, they turn the skins of their whetstone
books, that be made of Deeps skins or calves
skins.

The 12 Riddle.

Also black,

Leapt over the Lake,

With their mouths full of mens bones.

Solution.

That is a pair of shoes on a mans feet, when
a man leaps over a lake, they be black, and
they are full of mens bones.

The 13 Riddle.

Three prisoners once he was,

Where

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Where shut up in a prison of glasse,
The prison doore was made of bread,
And yet they were for hunger dead.

Solution.

These were three flies that were shut up in a glasse, and the mouth of it stopped with a peece of bread.

The 14 Riddle.

A little boy hunting,
Sate on the house eaving,
With a bow and a bolt,
Slayeth the King and all his folke.

Solution.

This is Death which slayeth Kings, Princes, Dukes, Earles, Gentlemen, and every living creature.

The 15 Riddle.

Ponder hie there is a Beale,
The Kings daughter of England there she late
Aske if I gentel her name, no man it wot,
What is the maids name that late in the boat.

Solution.

Her name is Anne, for in the fourth line it saith Anne, if you tell me her name, but this riddle is not to be seen on the booke but to be put with out the booke or else it will be soon understood.

The 16 Riddle.

M. and J. made great moan.

When C. upon C. was left alone.

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Solution.

What is Mary and John made great moans,
when Christ on a Cross was left alone, For
Mary begins with M. John begins with J. Christ
begins with C. and Cross begins with C. This
riddle may be put another way, that is this. A
thousand & one made great moan, when a hun-
dred on a hundred was left alone, for M. is for
a thousand, and I. is for one, and C. for a hun-
dred, and then is M. for Mary, J. for John, C. for
Christ, and then is the riddle very defuse.

The 17 Riddle.

Who bare the heft burthen that euer was
born at any time since, or at any time before.

Solution.

It was the Ass that bare both our Lady and
her son out of Egypt.

The 18 Riddle.

What is the most profitable beast, and that
men eat least on.

Solution.

It is a Be, for it maketh both honey and wax,
and yet colletteth his matter nothing the keep-
ing.

The 19 Riddle.

I am without it and yet I have it,
Tell me what it is, and pray God save it.

Solution.

At my heart, for I am without it, fearing
that

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that is within me, for ye may not under-
stand by the Riddle that I lack it.

The 20 Riddle.

What is that is like a mede,
And is not past a handfull bred,
And hath a voyce like a man,
Whom will tell this, but I know not when.

Solution.

It is little Hoppingay, for it is green like a
mede, and it is not past a handfull broad, and
it speaketh like a man.

The 21 Riddle.

L. and M. and C. and I.

So bright my Lady at the front-stone.

Solution.

Her name is Lucy, for in the first line is
L. M. C. I. which is Lucy: but this riddle must
be put and read thus, fifty and five, a hundred
and one: then is the riddle very proper, for L.
standeth for fifty, and M. for five, C. for an
hundred, and I. for one.

The 22 Riddle.

What is that one seeketh for, and would not
find.

Solution.

What is a hole in his shoe, or a peece of pil-
grims salve in a seage boyd, when he cometh
harkling in the night.

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The 23 Riddle.

What is that I wish for, and would not have
Solution.

That is heaven, for many a man wisheth that
he were in heaven: and though they know sure
that they should go thither straightway, yet
would they be loth to dye and go thither.
And this riddle may be solved another way, as
when a man or woman both say a vengeance
or a perfidience on their child or servant or wife
tho they be dead, yet would be loath it were so.
Partly percase if some woman wish such a
wish to her husband, then peradventure this
Riddle could not thereby be solved.

The 24 Riddle.

What is that as high as a hall, as bitter as
gall, as soft as silk, as white as milk.

Solution.

That is a walnut: for it groweth as high as a
hall, & the shell is as bitter as gall, & the kernel
that covereth the kernel, is as silk, and the
kernel is as white as milk.

The 25 Riddle.

What was he that slew the fourth part of the
world.

Solution.

That was Cain when he slew his brother A-
bel for then there were no persons in the world
but four, that was Adam, Eve, Cain, & Abel.

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The 26 Riddle.

What thre heads be they that uphold the world.
Solution.

Whose be the hammer head, the plough head
and the head that multiplieth the world.

The 27 Riddle.

What is he that getteth his lying backward?
Solution.

It is a Rope-maker. For as he maketh his
Ropes he goeth backward.

The 28 Riddle.

**Five brethren were bread at once,
Without any flesh, blood or bones,**

Two have beards, and two have none,

The first have but half a one,

Solution.

The five brethren, be five green bristles under

the Rose leaves which spring all at one time

Two of them have bristles like unto beards on

the edges, and the other two have none but be

plain on the edges, and the first is bristled or

bearded on the one side and plain on the other

The 29 Riddle.

What is it that goeth to the water, and leaveth

both his guts at home.

Solution.

It is a pillow-beer, for when it goeth to wa-

shing, the pillow and the feathers be left at

home.

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The 30 Riddle.

What is it that goes to the water on the head,

Solution.

It is a horse, whose natts.

The 31 Riddle.

What is it that goes to the water, and the first that toucheth the water is the Arse,

Solution.

It is a bucket or pail in a well.

The 32 Riddle.

What be they which be full all day, and empty at night.

Solution.

It is a pair of shoes for in the day they be full of mans feet, but at night when he goes to bed they be empty, and it may be filled by any other part of mans raiment.

The 33 Riddle.

Who is he which eat his mother in his grandams belly.

Solution.

It is the worm in a nut, for of the kernel of the nut cometh the worm, therefore the kernel is here taken for the mother of the worm: and of the shell the kernel cometh, and therefore the shell is here taken for the mother of the kernel, and the grandam of the worm.

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The 34 Riddle.

**Who is he that runneth through the hedge,
and his house on his back.**

Solution.

**That is a Snail, which where soever he goeth
carrieth his house on his back.**

The 35 Riddle.

**Is what poore man is a mans Alms the worse
be it howe.**

Solution.

**On a blind man, for he would with good will
see him hanged that giveth him the Alms.**

The 36 Riddle.

**What folke be they they love not to be prayed
for.**

Solution.

**They be beggers and poore folke, when men
say, I pray God help you.**

The 37 Riddle.

**Ten mens strength and ten mens length, and
ten men cannot set it on end, yet one may bear
it.**

Solution.

**That is a Rope or Cable of ten fathom long,
or more, which ten men cannot set on end, nor
ten scores, nor ten thousand.**

The 38 Riddle.

**I gathered apples in a garden, and ere I could
get out, I paid toll for them at thre gates.
At the first gate I paid halfe the Apples that**

I

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I had gathered and one more, and at the next gate I paid half the apples that I had left, and one more, and at the third gate I paid half the apples that I had left, and one more, and when I came out I had but one apple left: tel me now how many apples I gathered in all.

Solution.

He gathered in al xxi apples: for at the first gate he paid x, that was halfe, and one more, that was xi, so he had left x then at the second gate he paid h, that was halfe, and one more, that was six so he had left four, and at the last gate he paid two, that was half, and one more that was three so he had one left.

The 39 Riddle.

What is that which 20 will goe into a Cart
hard and one will fill a Barn.

Solution.

It is 20 candles not lighted, and one lighted.

The 40 Riddle.

Throw a rock, throw a reel throw an old
spinning wheele: throw a hard winning bone,
such a riddle you have none.

Solution.

It is a worm.

The 40 Riddle.

On green grasse I go, and on Oaken beams I
stand, I ride on a mule that was never sold,
and I hold the damme in my hand.

So-

The book of Riddles.

Solution.

It is a *Fole* ridden on, cut out of the *dammes* belly, and a *bridle* made of her skin.

The 41 Riddle.

What is that standeth on this side the wood and looketh over the wood.

Solution.

It is a *Sow* that hath a *poke* about her neck, for her feet be one this side the wood, and her head is over the wood.

The 42 Riddle.

What is it goeth to the wood, and his head home ward.

Solution.

It is an *axe* hanging upon a mans back, when he goeth to the wood.

The 43 Riddle.

What is that goeth to the wood, and carrieth his way on his neck.

Solution.

It is a man that goeth to the wood to sell *boughs* and carrieth a ladder to get up.

The 44 Riddle.

I came to a tree where were Apples, I eat no apples, I gave away no apples, nor I left no apples behind me: And yet I eat, gave away, and left behind me.

Solution.

There were three apples on the tree, for I eat one apple, gave away one apple, and left one.

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So I eat no Apples, for I eat but one Apple,
which is no Apples, and thus I gave away no
Apples, for I gave but one, and thus I left no
Apples, for I left but one.

The 45 Riddle.

What is that as small as a nit,
And serves the King at every bit.

Solution.

It is salt.

The 46 Riddle.

A water there is which I must pass,
A broader water there never was,
And yet of all waters I ever see,
To pass it over is less jeopardy.

Solution.

It is the sea, for that lyeth over all the world.

The 47 Riddle.

What is that the more it is, the less men fear
it, and the less it is, the more men dread it.

Solution.

It is a bridge, for if it be little we are afraid to
go over it, but if it be big, we fear no more to
go over it than on the ground.

The 48 Riddle:

I bought a brace of hounds for my Lord
Grace, and when I departed from his place, I
neither left them there, nor took them with
me, this marvellous thing how may it be.

So.

The book of Riddles.

Solut. I left one of the greyhounds there, and took the other with me: so then I neither left them there, nor took them with me.

49. Rid. Where I have it, and ponder I see it.

Solut. It is my breath in a mist panning, for here I have it in my mouth, and ponder I see it a yard from me.

The 50 Riddle.

What is that that is higher then a house,

And yet seems much lesser then a Mouse,

Solut. It is a Star in the sky.

The 51 Riddle.

My Lovers will

I am content to for fulfill,

Within this Rime his name is framed,

Tell me then how he is named.

Solut. His name is William: for in the first

line is will, and in the beginning of the second

line is I am, and then put them both together,

and it maketh William.

The 52 Riddle.

What is that as white as snow,

And yet as black as any Crow,

And more pliant then a wax,

And is tied in a liken band,

And every day a distance peer,

Looketh upon it with his cheer.

25

Solut.

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Solut. It is a book tied with a silver lace, for the paper is whiter as snow; and the Ink is as black as a Crow, and the leaues more pleasant then a hand.

53 Rid. What space is from the highest of the sea to the bottome.

Solut. A stones cast, for a stone thrown in, be it neuer so deep, will go to the bottome.

54 Rid. How many Calves tyles will reach to the sky.

Solut. One if it belong enough.

The 55 Riddle.

Mary an Christ loved very well,

My Ladies name here I do tell,

Yet is her name neither Christ nor Mary,

Tell me her name then and do not tarry.

Solut. Her name is Marian, for in the beginning is said, Mary an Christ: But this riddle is to be put without the Book, and not to be read, or else it will soon be perceived.

The 56 Riddle.

What is that as white as milk,

As soft as silk,

As black as a cole,

And hops in the street like a heed soule.

Solut. It is a Hye that hoppeth in the street, for part of her sea here be white, and part be black.

57 Rid.

The book of Riddles.

57 Rid. What is that goeth about the moon
and cannot get in.

Solut. It is the bark of a tree, for never is the
bark within the tree, but alwayes without.

58 Rid. What is that goeth through the wood;
and leaveth on every bush a rag.

Solut. It is snow.

59 Rid. I sent my Cook to Market, and gave
him twelue pence, and bad him bestow the
twelue pence upon twelue birds, that is, upon
capon, hens, woodcocks and Larks; and bad
him pay for capon four pence a peece, hen two
pence a peece, woodcock a halfe penny apeece,
lark a farthing a peece: Now tell me how ma-
ny capons he should buy, how many hens, how
many woodcocks, and how many larks.

Solut. He must buy one capon, two hens, seven
woodcocks and two larks.

60 Rid. What is it goes through thick and
thin and draws his guts after him.

Solut. It is a needle that goeth through thick
and thin cloath, drawing the thread after it,
which is taken for the guts.

61 Rid. What was he that was begotten ere
his father, born ere his mother, and had the
paleen-head of his Grandame.

Solut. It is Abel: for Adam his father was not
begotten, nor Eve his mother was not born.

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and he was the first that was buried in the
earth his Grandame.

62 Rid. What was he that made all, and sold
all, and he that bought all and lost all.

Solut. The Smith made the Nail, and sold the
Nail, and the Shoemaker bought the Nail, and
lost the Nail.

63 Rid. What is that no man would have,
and yet when he hath it, will not forgoe it.

Solut. It is a broken head, or such like, for no
man would gladly have a broken head, and yet
when he hath it, he would be loth to lose his
head, though it be broken.

64 Rid. What is that I can hold in my hands,
and will not lye in a great chest.

Solut. It is a long Speare.

65 Rid. What is that round as a ball,

Longer then Pauls Steele, weather-cock & all

Solut. It is a round bottome of thread when it
is unwoond.

66 Rid. Down in a meadow I have 2 swine,
the more meat I give them, the louder they
cry, the lesse meat I give them, the stiller they
lye.

Solut. These be two millstones, which the
more they grind the more noise they make, &
they be called swine here, because swine be fed
with corn, and so be they.

Rid.

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67. Rid. What is it that goeth through the wood, and toucheth never a twig.

Solut. It is the blast of a horn, or any other noise.

68. Rid. What is it that hath the legge on the one syde, and thow on the other.

It breeds thee, and rears thy, and the thinge like my mother.

And yet such another thing as hath my mother.

Solut.

It is a man and a woman upon a spere back.

The 69 Riddle.

Weynd the Dea there is an Dake,

And in that Dake there is a nest,

And in that nest there is an egge,

And in that egge there is a polke,

Which calls together Christian folke.

Solut. It is a clapper in a bell twtbin a steeple; for the Church is taken for the Dake, the steeple is taken for the nest, the bell is taken for the egge, and the clapper is taken for the polke.

The 70 Riddle.

Down in a dale there sits and stands,

Eight legs, and two hands,

It foers and lights, and lites thee,

I count him a wise man that tells this to me.

Solut. It is a man riding on horse back, and having a hawk sitting on his hand.

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The 71 Riddle.

Walking abroad to take the Appre,
I met two Ladies bright and fair,
Two pretty hopes by the hand they led,
And thus unto them both he said,
O ye fair Ladies I pray you tell me,
By nature and kind whose children they be.

Their Answer.

Gentleman, if ye will the truth know plain,
The sons of our sons they be certain,
Brothers to our husbands they be I wis,
And each of them unto the other Uncle is,
Begotten and bozn in wedlock they be,
And we are their Mothers we tell you truly.

Solut. These two Gentlewomen had two
sons the one Thomas, and the other William,
Thomas married Williams mother, and Will-
iam married Thomas his mother, and either of
them had a son by their wives, which sonnes
must needs be the sons of these sons, brothers
to their husbands, the one uncle to the other,
and they their Lawfull mothers.

72 Rid. Over a water I must passe, and I
must carry a lamb, a wolfe, & a bottle of hay
if I carry any moze then one at once my boat
will sink: If I carry over the bottle of hay
first, and leaue the lamb and the wolfe toge-
ther, the wolfe will carry away my lambe: If

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I carry over the wolfe first, the Lamb will
eat my bottle of hay : now would I know how
I should carry them over, so that I leave not
the lamb with the wolfe, nor the bottle of hay
with the lamb on neither side.

Solut. First carry over the lambe, and then
come again and fetch the wolfe, and bring the
lambe back again on the other side, and then
take the bottle of hay and carry it, & then fetch
over the lamb, and so the question is assailed,

The 73 Riddle.

Where were two fathers a hunting went,
And their two sons for the same intent,
They caught conies in all but thre,

Yet every one had one, how may that be,

Solut. One of the sons had a son, thus he is
father, and standeth both for the father and the
son.

74 Rid. I consume my mother that beat me,
I eat my nurse that fed me, then I dye leaving
all blind that saw me.

Solut. Meant of the flame of a Candle, which
having consumed both wax and weeke, goeth
out leaving them in the dark that saw by it.

65 Rid. As long as I live I eat, but when I
drink I dye.

Solut. It is the fire, which continueth while it
hath matter to burne, but is put out with wa-
ter.

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The 76 Riddle.

**Let thousand children beautifull,
Of this my body bred,
Both sonnes and daughters finely deckt,
I live and they are dead,
My sonnes were put to extreame death,
By such as loved them well.
My daughters dyed with extreame age,
But where I cannot tell.**

**Solut. The mother is a tree, the sons the fruit
and the daughters leaves.**

FINIS.

6 00 62



